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LES (AP)—A

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Task force hears concerns on Work First

NEWARK, NJ—A number of representatives from the Governor's Interdepartmental Task Force came to discuss how the state can move more people from welfare to welfare.

The Taskforce on Women's and Children's Issues co-sponsored the event with The Coalition on Human Needs, and brought out state notables such as Local 1081 President David

Weiner and the Rev. Reginald T. Jackson of St. Matthews AME Church. The focus was primarily on the availability of jobs and services for those trying to make the transition from welfare. The concern of those attending was that Governor Whitman wasn't committed as she should be, even as she signs two pieces of welfare reform legislation on this day. The Taskforce coordinator, State

Senator Wyonna M. Lipman hosted the event, opening with a pledge to work on the situation. "The clock is ticking and we are here and ready," she said. United Way President and CEO Maria Vizcarondo De Soto, coordinator of the Coalition on Human Needs added to that pledge with a call for everyone in their respective communities to unite with one another. "We need now, more than ever

before, to be one," she said. "We need to be one in our values, we need to be one in our vision for the future, we need to be one in our vision for justice, freedom, and dignity for all people in our community and in the larger society."

Among the state workers detailing their plans was Private Initiatives Director Gloria Hancock, who stressed the importance of making it

See TASK FORCE page 5

Negro History Month is catalyst for African Centered Education Movement

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrell

The African Centered Education Movement has brought a new meaning to the annual African American History Month celebrations that have become so popular.

That new meaning of African Centered thought, as defined by Dr. Wade Nobles, "is nothing more than a term categorizing a quality of thought and practice which is rooted in the cultural image and interest of African people and which represents and reflects the life experiences, history and traditions of African people as the center of analysis."

Dr. Nobles further states that African-centered thought is "the intellectual and philosophical foundation upon which African people should create their own scientific criterion for authenticating human reality."

Through the African Centered Education Movement, African American History Month has now become the catalyst for the intense study of Africa and the history of African people throughout the world, 365 days a year.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who founded, in February of 1926, what was then called "Negro History Week" would indeed be inspired by the continuing discussion and debate over the infusion of the contributions of African people in all subjects. Dr. Woodson was deeply concerned that

the contributions of African people to this society and the world were not given their proper recognition.

Dr. Woodson's great book, "The Miseducation of the Negro," written in 1933, described in the first chapter titled, "The Seat of The Trouble," the essence of what the African Centered Curriculum Movement is battling against today.

In 1933, Dr. Woodson explained that "Of the hundreds of Negro high schools recently examined by an expert in the United States Bureau of Education, only 18 offer a course taking up the history of the Negro, and in most of the Negro colleges and universities where the Negro is thought of, the race is studied only as a problem or dismissed as of little consequence."

Continuing, Dr. Woodson gave an example of "an officer of a Negro university, thinking that an additional course on the Negro should be given there, called upon a Negro Doctor of Philosophy of the faculty to offer such work. He promptly informed the officer that he knew nothing about the Negro. He did not go to school to waste his time that way. He went to school to be a Negro, and he was educated in a system which dismissed the Negro as a nonentity."

Obviously, since the writing of this great book, we have come a long way in our battle against challenging the white supremacy in the American public school curriculum. However, we still have a long way to go!



In celebration of Black History Month, above W.E.B. DuBois—A Biography in Four Voices will air on Friday, February 7, at 8:00 p.m. on PBS.

Newark BOE man charged with 11 counts of conspiracy

NEWARK, NJ—Attorney General Peter Verniero today announced the indictment of the former director of the Repair and Maintenance Division for the Newark Board of Education on charges of accepting money and jewelry in exchange for participating in a conspiracy that resulted in the approval of more than \$400,000 in purchase orders from a vendor who failed to deliver all of the material.

The Attorney General said a State Grand Jury named James Wilkins, 48, of Newark, in an eleven count indictment charging conspiracy, official misconduct, theft, bribery, gifts to public servant and attempted theft by deception.

Terrence P. Farley, director of the Division of Criminal Justice, said the indictment alleges that Wilkins on multiple occasions accepted amounts totaling \$1,000 and a Rolex watch valued at \$5,600 from a conspirator, whose identity is known to the grand jurors but not named in the indictment. The conspirator was operating as Quality Products and All American Products, according to the indictment.

The indictment alleges that a supervisor of the Repair and Maintenance Division signed 12 purchase orders amounting to \$313,000 submitted by Quality Products and All American Products for supplies during the course of the alleged conspiracy, between September 1993 and March 1994. Farley said those purchase orders fraudulently acknowledged that goods and supplies were received by the Board of Education from the vendor.

Wilkins also allegedly requested a supervisor of the clerical staff of his department to sign a purchase order for \$38,832 which fraudulently acknowledged that the goods and supplies were received by the Repair and Maintenance Division.

According to the indictment, between August 1993 and December 1994, a co-conspirator signed 16 purchase orders which acknowledged that Quality Products and All American Products sent goods and supplies to

talting \$428,000 to the Repair and Maintenance Division from the co-conspirators.

The investigation into Wilkins was conducted by the Newark Task Force, made up of members of State Police and Criminal Justice, which was implemented two years ago to investigate corruption in Newark. So far, 10 indictments have been handed up, seven against former city or school board employees and three against other individuals. One defendant, Roger Day, the owner of Quality Products is a fugitive and is being held in jail in Italy.

An indictment is merely an accusation and the defendant remains innocent until or unless proven guilty.

Wilson, Brustein 'debate' cultural diversity in the theatre

By Michael Kuchwara
Associated press drama critic

NEW YORK—The audience was an odd combination of paparazzi and members of the Revolutionary Workers Party, blue-chip celebrities like Helen Mirren, Mike Wallace and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., and scores of theater types from Broadway, regional theater and beyond.

The occasion? A debate with brief flashes of humor and heat in a packed Town Hall recently.

The participants? August Wilson, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, and Robert Brustein, author, critic and head of American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Mass., brought together by Theater Communications Group.

The subject? "On Cultural Power," an extension of their arguments that began last summer when Wilson, addressing a national meeting of theater professionals, declared that "race matters."

"It's the largest, most identifiable and most important part of our per-

sonality," Wilson said at the time. "Black theater is a target for cultural imperialists who seek to appropriate their ideas about the world as the only valid ideas, and see blacks not only in arts and letters but in the abundant gifts of humanity," he added.

Brustein fired back several months later in American Theater magazine, writing that Wilson's speech proclaimed "the language of self-segregation... I'm not at all certain what constitutes a 'black' or 'white' theater. Most American theaters today, like many American cities—indeed like many Americans—are racially mixed."

The combatants essentially reaffirmed their previous arguments for the boisterous audience which occasionally talked back to the participants despite the valiant efforts of playwright and actress Anna Deavere Smith, who moderated the evening.

Brustein designated political correctness, calling it "freedom from speech." Not surprisingly, he championed freedom of creative invention and critical thought. "I believe the artist must be free to speak truth to political power and that means black power as well."

"We are not advocates of separat-

ism," Wilson declared, "but rather we are seeking to be included... We are fighting to be included in the making of theater in America."

The author of such plays as "Fences" and "The Piano Lesson," Wilson charged that it says something about the American theater when "60 of the 66 major regional theaters in this country (LOFT, the League of Resident Theaters) are white."

It meant, he said, black theater artists were being excluded from opportunities to develop their various talents at the same level of venues as their white counterparts.

"We are talking about simply being able to participate in the making of theater," Wilson said. "The score is 65 to 1."

"If Mr. Wilson knows a worthy black theater that isn't being properly funded, he could give it instant recognition by rewarding it with one of his world premieres," Brustein said.

Neither man convinced the other that he should change his mind as they scrapped over, among other things, non-traditional, color-blind casting.

August Wilson
Brustein is for it: "People have to have access to all tools. They have to be allowed to go wherever they want and do whatever they want."

Wilson is against it: "The history of our bodies—the maimings, the lashings, the lynchings, the body that is capable of inspiring profound rage and pungent cruelty—is not for rent," he has written.

Yet after more than two hours of talk, the men agreed to disagree. "I learned that behind Mr. Wilson's anger, he is a teddy bear," Brustein said.

"I assure you, I am a lion," Wilson answered.

Remembering the Movement

Lois Brathwaite:
Fighting for
the right to
vote

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

The right to vote is something many of us take for granted. Prior to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 becoming a law, there were millions of blacks, white

women and Lois Brathwaite others who were denied the right to vote. During the 1960s, many brave individuals took it upon themselves to get involved and fight for what they believed was rightfully theirs.

Lois Brathwaite, currently a teacher at Englewood's St. Cecilia Inter-Parochial School, read about the freedom schools that were in Mississippi. She traveled there to see what she could contribute. "Kids in those schools were being 'short-changed,'

Ms. Brathwaite said in an interview with City News. "I wanted to see what it was like."

While in Mississippi, even if you thought you NAACP of might lose life. Special your life.

task forces were being organized and she was asked to participate. Led by Charles Evers, brother of slain Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers, Lois became a member of a force whose assignment was to register voters. To illustrate the national interest, the Civil Rights Movement attracted people from states of Wyoming, California, Texas, Massachusetts and New York were also part of Lois' task force.

"Our goal," she explained, "was to register many people as we could. Many of them were afraid. But we assured them that they would be safe if they registered in groups." Their fear wasn't unfounded. According to Brathwaite, many who tried to register were beaten by angry onlookers, followed by Klansmen or even worse—killed.

"It was a movement that you got caught up in," she stressed, "even if you thought you might lose your life." Ms. Brathwaite spent a few months in Mississippi registering voters but the movement didn't stop there. In Selma, Alabama, thousands marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in route to Montgomery. They were demanding the right to vote and protesting the death of those who died fighting for equality. The participants, which included families, religious figures, celebrities and politicians, were brutally attacked by police officers.

The quest of the marchers was not in vain because, soon after, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law. "My involvement was more of a private thing," Lois says, "I wasn't involved with the masses." But her contributions to the Voting Rights Act, is just as monumental.

Though many take the right for granted, the effect that the bill has on today's voting system is immense. Lois Brathwaite feels that the many people who don't vote, don't care. And the people who do vote don't do it with the oneness and unity in mind that it took for them to get the right to vote. Ms. Brathwaite, who is currently working as the chairperson of the Bergen County Community Action Program, said in closing, "Now it often seems that the struggle doesn't mean anything to us except the ones who were involved."

While that may be true in many instances, the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute in Selma, Alabama is doing their part to change history. On March 7-9, 1997, they will host "The Annual Celebration of the Right To Vote: The Bridge Crossing Jubilee." For more information, call (334) 418-0800.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 p.m. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7-9

UPPER MOUNTCLAIR—"Field Studies in Humanities and Sciences," will be held at the original State University of New Jersey School of Conservation. For more information call (201) 948-4646.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 8 & 9

NEW YORK—The 15th Annual N.Y. Cycle World International Motorcycle Show will be presented in displays by the original equipment manufacturers at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. For more information please call (800) 331-0708.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

EATONTOWN, PA—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club will host players Bickard at 613 Highland Rd., Victoria Commons. Cost - \$ 3.00 per person per hour. For more information call (908) 727-1242 by 2:00.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

HILLSBOROUGH—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club will have a Duke Gardens Tour, 4 p.m. at Rt. 266, Cost of \$5.00. For more information call (908) 274-1546 by 22/97.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

MIDLETON—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club is having a business meeting/social planning session. Free admission. For more information call (908) 957-0876 by 21/0.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 10am and 2 p.m. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PRINCETON—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club will have a Valentine's

Dance fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency, Rte 1 No. & Alexander Rd. The cost is \$15.00. For more information call (908) 460-9239.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PLAINFIELD—A Post Valentine Affair Sponsored by the Kimberly Davis Scholarship Fund will be held at the Douglas Hill Temple, 722 St. Mary's Ave., 8:00 pm until 12:00 am. For more information call Peggy Wilds, (908) 757-0714.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

CAMDEN—The NJ Million Man March Coalition will have a statewide general meeting 4 p.m. at the Islamic Studies Center - 1157 Haddon Ave. For more information call (609) 365-1346.

PLAINFIELD—The Black United Fund is having a Black Child Expo. Special invited guests include motivational speaker Les Brown and political Star Soufah. Fee - \$ 10.00 for adults. For more information call (908) 769-7975.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 p.m. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

SOUTH BRUNSWICK—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club will have a Chocolate Lovers Dream Party at a member's home. The Party will include a Vietnamese table, flavored coffees, and delicacies. For more information, call (908) 329-8366 by Feb. 19.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

EAST ORANGE—The NJ Million Man March Coalition will have a statewide general meeting 4pm at St. John's Masonic Lodge, 428 Central Ave. For more information call (609) 365-1346.

FAX your events to 908-754-1036.

Ocean County NAACP host Martin Luther King observance



LAKEWOOD—Pictured above are (left to right), Rev. Michael Nabors, assistant pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton, Anita Lockerman, vice president of the Ocean County Lakewood NAACP Chapter, Attorney Desha Jackson, law clerk for Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Theodore J. Labrecque Jr. and Dr. Michael Rush, newly appointed superintendent of First Bank Public Schools. Rev. Nabors, the guest speaker, stressed that after 250 years African Americans are still not free, so they must continue to work and particularly help the youth understand where they come from and where they are someone. He said the legacy of Dr. King was that he dared to be different. Rev. Nabors is also president of the Central Jersey (Trenton) NAACP Chapter.

EPA Awards Newark for Brownfields Pilot Program



Newark Mayor Sharpe James (center) accepts a \$200,000 check from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the National Brownfields Pilot Program. Joining the mayor are U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg (left) and EPA Administrator Jeanne Fox (right).

NEWARK, NJ—Mayor Sharpe James was recently joined by local residents in accepting a \$200,000 check from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the cleanup of a property in the South Ward.

U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg and EPA administrator Jeanne Fox presented the check at the site of the former Atty Hydro, Inc./Badger Technologies company (265 and 218 Badger Avenue) as part of the agency's National Brownfields Pilot Program.

The Brownfields Pilot Program was initiated to renew industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment has been delayed due to real or perceived environmental contamination, according to EPA officials. Newark and Trenton were the only two New Jersey cities to receive the \$200,000 grants. The money will be used for site assessment of the abandoned commercial property, which poses no threat to humans. It was cleaned up last year, according to the EPA.

NBA All-stars honor youth

NEW YORK—The National Basketball Association today announced that four-time NBA all-star Shaquille O'Neal, 1996 Olympic Gold medalist Darnell Moore, and multi-platinum recording artist LL Cool J and singing sensation and television star Brandy will headline the 1997 NBA Team Up Celebration at Noon (EST) on Saturday, Feb. 8, 1997.

Television stars scheduled to participate include Ahmad Rashad and Willow Bay, co-hosts of "NBA Inside Stuff"; French Stewart of "3rd Rock from the Sun," "Boston Common"; Anthony Clark, and Daniella Deutscher and Anthony Anderson from NBC's Saturday morning show, "Hang Time"; 1996 Olympic Gold medalists and WNBA stars Lisa Leslie, Rebecca Lobo and Sheryl Swoopes will make special guest appearances.

The Celebration will honor students Bryan Fretwell of Portland, Oregon, Naomi Swel and Cindi Wach of Mesa, Arizona, and NBA Team Up program participant Brahma Demson of Cleveland for their exemplary commitment to community service.

As part of the local "SLEEP BETTER" campaign, The Sleep Disorders Center of New Jersey invites you to attend a FREE SEMINAR given by Board Certified Sleep Specialist, David Goldstein, MD.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11th at 7:30 PM
For more information, or to reserve your seat, please call 908-789-4244
2253 South Avenue • Westfield

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE BY MISS ANNA

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Look towards the goal you've established for yourself in your career. Try to sidestep any minor difficulties and see the whole picture. Pay attention to your mental and physical vitality, and stay away from situations which will end in overpending, overdoing or overindulging.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

You will see financial delays improving this week. And it may be best to stick to time-tested routines. Steer clear of all who cannot be trusted, or seem to be working towards a goal purely for themselves. You enjoy change, variety and adventure.

Taurus: (April 21 - May 21)

Think before you speak and to make sure you have all your facts straight. If you are involved in a love affair, it can be especially intense right now; and you may have an excellent time for a proposal. If uncommitted, it's time to discuss the future with a potential mate.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

This week may not be the best time to settle old grievances or new arguments, or try to make much of an impression with anyone. It may be best to adopt a low profile. Avoid hassling with a co-workers, fret it's a no-win situation. There is high potential for monetary gains.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

Now begins a fortunate period for your family and home interests. It's time to make a list of changes you will be contemplating, perhaps a sale of real estate. Feelings are intense in the romance department, so sidestep a showdown that could be memorable.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)

Don't bottle up your feelings; express your anger in a positive way. Remember to speak clearly to avoid any misunderstanding. During this time, relatives are bound to play a bigger role in your life, and pleasantly so. Avoid arguing with family members.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)

Expectations are high and you are apt to run into obstacles wherever you turn. It may be best to lie low, and not make waves, waiting for a more opportune time. Money trends are promising, but not immediate. People you deal with tend to be overemotional.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)

Business and financial success are surely on their way to you. Someone may be trying to involve you in a financial deal which just does not feel right for you - hold your ground. There is delightful rapport with a mate, lover or close friend.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)

A new romance may be waiting in the wings for you. It might not be a new person, but someone you already knew, and hadn't realized the possibilities before. You will make great progress in self-knowledge and spiritual growth in the coming year.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)

It's an excellent time for beginning a domestic project or closing a real estate deal. Most of the week will find you in an upbeat mood, possibly planning a get together with friends. Don't let minor money problems dampen your spirit - things will work out.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)

There seems to be questions from all sides regarding your career and business interests. But after this week, these problems will clear up for many months. Meanwhile, it may be best to postpone important decisions. There may be tension on the homefront.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)

Your physical energy is at a low point this week. In the next few weeks, you are bound to make major decisions regarding your personal life, so think about your moves and plan accordingly. It looks like time to cultivate a whole new circle of friends.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

This week probably will be another struggle for survival, primarily on the job, but also on other people's conflicts. It will be tense for awhile, and it would be best for you to tread very lightly on others' sensitivities. Keep business face to yourself for now.

Black History Calendar

NOW THROUGH APRIL 25

NEW YORK—Art exhibit, "African-American Pioneer," which will be shown at the Sagarm Gallery, 375 Park Ave. For more information call (212) 572-7379.

NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 16

NEW BRUNSWICK—Play, "The Meeting," a fictionalized account of a meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. starring the late Cedric Turner, and Barry Louis Smith. At the Crossroads Theatre, 7 Livingston Ave. For more information call: Crossroads Box office (908)249-5560.

FEB 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 22

NORTH BRANCH—Sky Show, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," which will teach the importance of the Big Dipper to runaway slaves at the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College, Rte. 28 & Lanning Road. For more information call (908)231-8805.

EDISON—African-American Inventors exhibit and presentation at Middlesex County College, 155 Mill Rd. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. with a lecture at 12 noon. For more information call Patrick Mathias, (908) 908-2566.

JERSEY CITY—Michael Shickland will deliver Jersey City State College's "First Annual Paul Robeson Scholar Lecture," 11 am at Jersey City State College, 100 Kennedy Blvd. For more information, call (201) 200-3524.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NEW BRUNSWICK—African-American inventors, exhibit and presentation 10 a.m.-1 p.m. with a lecture at 10:30 a.m. Middlesex County College New Brunswick Center 317 George Street. For more information call Patrick Mathias, (908) 908-2566.

Television program, "Black Legacy" will air on ODDSSEY (formerly Faith & Values Channel) at 10 pm, and will repeat at 1am. This program features the candid thoughts of biracial college students on their mixed racial heritage.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

EDISON—Keith Marks, jazz musician, performs at the Middlesex County College Center 125 Mill Rd. 12 noon. For more information call Patrick Mathias, (908) 908-2566.

NEW YORK—Author James McBride "The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother" will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble. For more information, call 212-765-0692.

Television program, "Black Legacy" will air on ODDSSEY (formerly Faith & Values Channel) at 12 pm. The program tours the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change in Atlanta, Ga., and features an interview with King's son Dexter, the new president of the King Center.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

EDISON—Reception for Caribbean/Ribbean artist Charles Gaudin, 6 p.m. at the Middlesex County College College Center Gallery, 155 Mill Rd. Mr. Gaudin will be on display here

during February. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 908-2566.

NEW YORK—Author S.E. Anderson (The Black Holocaust for Beginners) will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble. For more information, call 212-765-0692.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

NEWARK—Family Theater, "George Washington Carver, from Slave to Scientist," 2 pm at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201)596-6550. For TTY calls, (201)596-6355.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

PLAINFIELD—A collage of Black women's poetry will be presented with a dramatic video by Cantina Joy Blackmon and Linda Ellis. Sponsored by the Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Cresset of Light Church, 1240 East Seventh St. For more information, call Rev. Carol A. Lindsay (908)755-6788.

NEWARK—Reading/Performance by the Last Poets, 3 pm at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201)596-6550. For TTY calls, (201)596-6355.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Author David Laverling Lewis (W.E.B. DuBois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919), will speak at the opening of an exhibit depicting the life and work of W.E.B. DuBois, 3 p.m. Alexander Library, Rutgers University. For more information call 908-935-7505. Those planning to attend must call by Feb. 3.

MENLO PARK—A celebration of Black History will be held at 7 pm in Nordstrom, Park Mall. The evening of fashion/special exhibits, trunk shows, private shopping, and entertainment is sponsored by Nordstrom and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW). For further information, call 201-434-4096.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

EDISON—"Ebonics—What's It All About?" lecture by Kemu Kenyatta, 11 am, Middlesex County College Center, Rte. C, College Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information call Patrick Mathias, (908) 908-2566.

NEWARK—A Community Meeting and Black History Month program will be held at the 15th Ave. School at 6:00. The Theme is "Mary McLeod Bethune and the Struggle for Quality Education," and is sponsored by the 18th and 19th Districts of the Central Ward in conjunction with the 15th Ave. PTA. For more information, call Judith C. Favors, 201-742-6286.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

EDISON—"Posse," a motion picture about African-Americans in the Old West directed and starring Mario Van Peebles, will be shown 12 noon, 3 and 6 pm in Middlesex County College's College Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information call Patrick Mathias, (908) 908-2566.

Continued on page 6

Who are the 100 Most Influential in New Jersey?

- Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship
- Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service
- Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

May 1, 1997

City News and AT&T present

The 2nd Annual City News

100 Most Influential

Newark Airport Marriott

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

For tickets and information call (908) 754-3400



Supreme Court to hear arguments in Beckwith appeal

JACKSON, MS(AP)—Byron De La Beckwith's appeal of his murder conviction for the 1963 slaying of Medgar Evers will be heard by the Mississippi Supreme Court in March.

The state's high court will hear arguments March 17, more than three years after Beckwith was convicted during his third trial. Two all-white, all-male Hinds County jurors deadlocked in Beckwith's first two trials in 1964.

Defense lawyer Merrida Coxwell said the court's decision will define speedy trial rights.

"I think it is one of the most important speedy trial cases to come down in this state in the nation," Coxwell told *The Clarion-Ledger* in today's edition. Beckwith attorneys argue that 26 years of delay between the first two trials and the 1990 indictment deprived him of a speedy and fair trial. The defense made 21 appeal issues in briefs filed in 1995. Coxwell said the long delay in setting the case for argument before Supreme Court was not unusual.

Beckwith, 76, remains at the old Hinds County jail in downtown Jackson.

Panola County jurors who heard the case in Jackson convicted Beckwith on Feb. 5, 1994.

Hinds County prosecutors investigated the possibility of jury tampering after the Jackson newspaper in October 1989 reported the State Sovereignty Commission screened jurors.

Although they did not find evidence to substantiate jury tampering, prosecutors found new evidence against Beckwith. He was re-indicted on a murder charge in December 1990.

Beckwith's son, Byron De La Beckwith VII of Aberdeen, said Monday, "I hope that they will do their Supreme Court ruling not by political opinion but by the true facts, and that they would throw it out under what the laws call for and the number of points that were done wrong in the trial."

"I firmly believe that the Supreme Court does not have enough guts to do what is correct. He's a political prisoner."

Camille Cosby handles husband's affair with dignity

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Cosby's wife brushed aside the possibility he fathered a child during a long-ago affair, saying Tuesday:

"All old personal negative issues between Bill and me were resolved years ago. We are a united couple."

"What occurred 23 years ago is not important to me except for the current issue of extortion," Camille Cosby, the comedian's wife of 33 years, said in a statement issued through her husband's publicist.

Mrs. Cosby said her focus is on finding answers in the Jan. 16 road-side slaying of her 27-year-old son, Ennis.

"What is very important to me is the apprehension of the person or persons who killed our son," she said. "I appeal to all of you to help us find the murderer."

Cosby previously denied he is the father of 22-year-old Autumn Jackson, who was arrested two days after the slaying on charges of trying to extort \$24 million from the entertainer by threatening to go public with her claim to be Cosby's illegitimate daughter.

In an interview with CBS' *Dan Rather*, Cosby acknowledged having an affair with the young woman's mother and said "there is a possibility" he is the father. Cosby said: "If you said, 'Did you make love to the woman?' the answer is 'Yes. Are you the father?' No."

The multimillionaire comedian said he and Ms. Jackson's mother, Shawn Thompson, had a one-time "rendezvous." Cosby said he didn't learn that she had delivered a baby until he called her for another meeting 14 months later, and he stressed his name does not appear on the child's birth certificate.

On the Road for democracy in Nigeria

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"You will see the inauguration of a civilian president in Nigeria in Oct. of 1998," Dr. Abel Ubeke said of the changes taking place in Nigeria. Ubeke, Chairman of the Congress for National Consensus political party, joined four other heads of Nigerian political parties in assuring American foreign policy experts, gathered by the National Coalition for Fairness in Africa, that Africa's most populous country was headed for democracy and national elections for a new president and head of state.

Completing a six-city tour of the United States to "set the record straight," and describe what is happening in Nigeria's transition process to Democracy, Dr. Ubeke was a equal among peers. He was joined in the tour by chairmen of all Nigeria's registered political parties in saying their country is in the process of achieving civilian rule "at all levels of the government."

An attorney, Ubeke is a former Managing director and CEO of Guinness Nigeria, PLC. His traveling peers, and competitors in Nigeria's elections included: Senator Magaji Abdullahi, National Center Party; Alhaji Saie Ahmed, Democratic Party of Nigeria; Alhaji Gambo Lawan, Grassroots Democratic Movement; and Alhaji Isa Mohammed of the United Nigeria Congress Party.

"We are here to tell people in America the truth about what is really

happening in Nigeria," said Senator Abdullahi in reference to distorted news coverage the group feels Western media is presenting about events and issues occurring in the world's largest black nation. "During the course of our visit, we had the opportunity to interact with fellow Nigerians and also American citizens. We had lively discussions with all the various groups we met. We have, as much as possible, tried to allay their fears. We have discovered a lot of skepticism which is formed mostly by lack of information on happenings back home," party leaders said in a Joint communique. "We wish to assure each and every one of you of our collective resolve to ensure that this transition will be seen to its logical conclusion: the entrenchment of lasting democracy in our nation," party chairs told the Fairness in Africa group and a National Press Club gathering.

Like America's major political parties, these five parties were designated out of 15 in Nigeria that applied to vie for power when the transition process ends in 1998. Elections for officials at the local level were held in March of 1996. Multi-party state-level elections will be held in March 1997 and a new Nigerian head of state will emerge from the 1998 national elections. Dissenters, such as the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) and North American Liberation Council (NALCON), don't want new elections and are seeing the installation of

Chief M.K.O. Abiola as Nigeria's President based on unofficial results of the June 12, 1993 elections. A military-dominated government headed by General Sani Abacha since Nov. 1993, currently controls Nigeria's Provisional Ruling Council, made up of military leaders and police officers, makes its laws. The country is divided into 30 states for administering masters not reserved to the Federal Government. The 30 states are divided into hundreds of local government areas. In a move toward the transition, Abacha recently changed all military administrators at the state levels which is the second level of government authority.

In the 36 years since Nigeria secured its independence from Britain, military juntas have ruled for over 25 years claiming this as a necessity due to the country's diverse population. There are over 250 different ethnic groups in Nigeria differing from each other in language, culture and traditions. Forty-five percent of Nigerians are Muslim, 40 percent are Christians, and 15 percent adhere to traditional religions and strongly distrust the others' religious practices and motives. Nigerian is a country with superpower clout and potential in world affairs. One in every four Africans is Nigerian and of every five blacks in the world, one is Nigerian.

"We welcome the five party chairman who come to America as proponents of Nigerian democracy," said



Representatives of the five party delegation from Nigeria

Dr. Maurice Dawkins, the head of Fairness in Africa Policy. "We seek America's fairness in policy toward Africa and recommend to U.S. policy-makers actions that will strengthen their democratic process and assure the maintenance of minority rights and majority rule," Dawkins told party chairmen. Dawkins released contents of a letter sent to President Clinton asking him to reexamine and reconstruct his Nigeria policy. "Get facts from some other sources, permit an honest debate about the alternatives and options and let the decision-making process take place without an

anti-Nigerian biases," the letter said. Many African Americans allege that U.S. policies and sanctions against Nigeria have racist underpinnings. To those who provoke against the transition process taking place, the party chairmen said, "It is imperative for us to urge for greater international understanding of the situation in order not to endanger the process of democratic restoration. Too often, foreign policy positions have been adopted by some usually friendly countries based on one-sided reports of exiles who have chosen to remain glued to the past."

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EDITORIAL

More Prisons

At last the Perfect Solution to New Jersey's Urban Problem

In the State of the State address, Governor Whitman, ironically indicated an increase in state spending for education and building new prisons. The dollars for building new prisons may be consistent with his goals; however, given his pledge to New Jersey citizens to create world class school systems through a "standards driven" school funding model, what does not come across in the governor's message is that spending for education is grossly short of what is needed to equalize funding for urban schools.

The New Jersey Courts have ordered the Governor to provide a plan to equalize funding to the 30 special needs districts. The Commissioner of Education and the Governor are aware of these districts' inability to meet current state standards that have relied on minimal standards of performance. But rather than examine the most effective and efficient ways to significantly raise performance in these districts, the state's strategy is to redefine what is thorough and efficient for more funding purposes and allocate funding to those areas. The State's message is, "we will make sure we fund the standards we say you need. And, on top of that, we will declare that we are funding world class schools."

The Governor's choice, to give both education funding and prison expansion equal billing, needs more analysis and reflection. Undoubtedly, declaring an increase in new prison expansion, is supposed to give New Jersey residents greater comfort and a feeling that safety is improved by spending more on new prisons. The urban public is left to wonder whether the concern for safety is secondary to using the prison industrial complex as a boon for state economic expansion.

Likewise, declaring a spending increase to education, especially the Special Needs Districts, is to reassure the public that the State is being responsible to education because it is providing more funding to these districts.

Because of the euphoria created by this "lock-em-away" mentality, the education issues get lost. In reality, it costs far less to create conditions that will reduce the need for new prisons, than it does to ignore these needs, build new prisons, house prisoners and wait until a new generation matures to build more prison. It does not make sense for us to mortgage our children's future on a strategy which ignores the needs to reduce crime, social and economic dependency, and which builds prisons to maintain those who were forced to live in the conditions created.

Given that direction one would think we are building new prisons to replace the loss of the manufacturing sector in New Jersey. One would be able to think that eventually prisoners will have to pay for their cells in prison and provide labor to the prison production center to gain the income necessary for being housed and living as a prisoner. Because they would be employees of the state they would also be subject to pay taxes. The labor would be so cheap, the state could begin to go after competitive contractors for state business. After all why shouldn't the state buy a printing press and use its prisoners to provide the labor? Why shouldn't it create a landscaping company and bid on state and city beautification contracts?

This direction could be mistaken as a strategy to improve the employment picture and reduce welfare in order to build a workforce for the prisons. Certainly, this direction could be looked at as a boon to equal opportunity. Affirmative Action could be kept in full force, because the new positions in the state prisons could be used to offset, downsizing of minorities from other civil service positions that have increased over the years.

To put the right spin for the public, maybe a new name is needed for our prisons, "Inns for Economic and Personal Development, Your Home When You Can't Find One." Given such an institution, there is a high potential for profit, it would make sense to then sell these burdens to the state for a one time big cash out. Yes, we could just privatize the whole deal. At last, "The perfect solution" to New Jersey's urban problems of underdevelopment and unemployment can be achieved by building new prisons.

What the governor's speech failed to do is give a clear indication of the projects she will initiate that will create jobs in New Jersey urban centers. How she bring needed capital for economic development and housing to urban center? What tax incentives is she willing to give investors in urban and minority-owned businesses? How will she use the experience of the state in managing New Jersey's most troubled school districts to bring a new model of urban education that will create cities of highly motivated and achieving urban children? The Governor fails to make New Jersey the leading state in the Northeast for economic growth, because of the fear, resentment, and racism that exists when it comes to creating wealth and jobs for large urban center with people of color.

With the money's spent on new prisons this year, she could have launched a job program in urban centers to rebuild urban schools and create jobs. She could have launched a venture capital fund to help invest in businesses owned and operated by minorities and companies located in urban centers.

We challenge Gov. Whitman to do what she does best, stand up and bring the power, energy, and leadership she possesses to give New Jersey's urban communities a chance to make her the greatest governor to lead New Jersey and the country.

By Marian Wright Edelman

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...uty ago, education, and any upward mobility that came as a result, meant a whole new set of responsibilities. DuBois wrote that the "Talented Tenth," the most fortunate, gifted, and successful minds in the Black community, were obligated to help those less fortunate.

"Dr. King did not die so that half of us would 'make it' and half of us would perish, forever tarnishing two centuries of struggle and agitation for our equal rights," Gates and West write. "We, the members of the Talented Tenth, must accept our historical responsibility and live King's credo that none of us is free until each of us is free... and that all of us are brothers and sisters, in spirit."

When I was growing up, I was taught that the world had a lot of problems that I should struggle and work to change. My parents taught me that acute intellectual and material gifts brought with them the privilege and responsibility of sharing with others.

They believed that service is the rent each of us pays for living, and that the service is the very purpose of life and not something we get in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.

Gates and West say that the lessons of recent history and the many

challenges we have yet to overcome as Black people require us to take a fresh look at our ideas about what it will take to move us forward. They believe that we must all find opportunities for positive change—within ourselves and within our community. What about government's role? They make the case for getting people off welfare, training them for good-paying jobs, and putting them to work.

We must demand a wide range of economic incentives to generate new investments in inner cities, youth apprenticeships with businesses, and larger tax credits for money earned. And they urge us to stand boldly against anti-Black racism, but warn us against continuing to repeat the same old, state formulas: "to blame the man for oppressing us all, in exactly the same ways; to scapegoat Koreans, Jews, women, even Black immigrants for failure of African Americans to seize local entrepreneurial opportunities;" is to neglect our duty as leaders of our own community.

"Not to demand that each member of the Black community accept individual responsibility for her or his behavior—whether that behavior assumes the form of Black-on-Black homicide, violations by gang members against the sanctity of the church,

unprotected and too early sexual activity, gangster rap lyrics, and hate of any kind—is to function merely as ethnic cheerleaders selling wood tickets from the campus or the suburbs, rather than saying the difficult things that may be unpopular with our fellows. Being a leader does not necessarily mean being loved; loving one's community means daring to risk estrangement and alienation from that very community, in the short run, in order to break the cycle of poverty, despair, and hopelessness that we are in, over the long run."

Largely, We desperately need now is the kind of leadership that will allow us to move forward as a community and as an entire nation. Given the multitude of problems we face, we must recognize that we all have a responsibility to serve as leaders.

"The Future of the Race," written by Henry Louis Gates, chairman of Harvard University's Afro-American Studies Department, and Cornel West, professor of Afro-American studies at Harvard, is published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and a member of the Black Community Crusade for Children Working Committee, whose mission is to leave no child behind.

Freedom fighter flops at Governing

By William Reed Business Economic

The unthinkable is now being thought in South Africa. Nelson Mandela, the world's most admired and respected freedom fighter is being called into question about his ability to guide and govern. The symbol of leadership and greatness for blacks around the world, Mandela has moved to be a gracious man but hardly the planet's greatest president. Signs are now looming for Mandela which should also be a signal to African Americans about unilateral reliance on politics and the government as the salvation to blacks' equity in the world. President Mandela has recently been given notice that his African National Congress (ANC) is viewed as inept in its governing. Not only is the country's white minority disillusioned, but many of South African blacks as well.

Former president F.W. de Klerk has accused President Mandela's government of steadily losing its grip on the country. City of Johannesburg, de Klerk, said, but valid, government failures, de Klerk wants that all South Africans will soon illustrate enormous disappointment with Mandela's ANC and its governance. It has "the impression of a ship drifting downstream, apparently rudderless," says de Klerk. He says the government has failed to keep its promises on education, health, reconstruction development and privatization, and did not meet targets for these in 1996.

In the all-important area of business development, throughout 1996 corporations had warned that violent crime such as car jackings and armed robbery were getting out of control and becoming a serious deterrent to foreign investment in the country. De Klerk said Mandela and the ANC "displays a lack of vision for the country and for itself and it is in the grip of an identity crisis which is banning the country."

South Africa is a nation of 41 million people, self-sufficient in food and rich in minerals. Despite its recent legacy of apartheid and resulting

international sanctions, it still has the continent's strongest economy and is better equipped than any other African state to avoid post-and-neo-colonial failures. But South Africa mirrors much of America's urban, and black-city crisis: one-third of the country's work force is unemployed and the land has lost more than a third of its value since the 1994 election. Mandela himself admits that "crime is out of control." The national murder rate is 52 a day; five times higher than in the U.S. The largest city and

highest concentration of blacks in the country, Johannesburg, had more than 8,000 car jackings last year.

The 78-year-old president will step down this year as leader of the ANC preliminary move toward him retiring from active politics at next elections in 1999, but his unimpeachable question of "what are the symbols of such 'empowerment' of African Americans?" Like Mandela's crisis, we too have numerous examples of cities and urban neighborhoods crumbling under black mayors and those in

other elected offices. We've put our focus on political power and not on the economic power needed to yield our own self-sufficiency and determination? Black ghettos and unemployment in America have not decreased since we used our "empowerment" to elect more African Americans to office as state, county and local officials; mayors and congress people, actually they've increased. Economic freedoms and initiatives are the forces that will take us to more secure positions in American society.

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3/1 ARM 30 Year Term

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APR	7.680%
Maximum Loan	\$1,000,000
Monthly Pmt Per \$1,000	\$6.32
Caps	2% annual 5% lifetime

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1-Year ARM

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APR	7.820%
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Monthly Pmt Per \$1,000	\$5.76
Caps	2% annual 5% lifetime

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BEVERLY WILLIAMS ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF JOINT MEETING

MAPLEWOOD, NJ— Councilwoman and Chairwoman of the East Orange City Council, Beverly K. Williams, was elected Chairperson of Joint Meeting's Board of Directors at the board's annual reorganization meeting in Maplewood Municipal Hall on Thursday, January 16. Ms. Williams, who succeeds Councilwoman and former Hillsdale Mayor, Ann C. Lord, is the first East Orange member of the 11-member board to serve as Chair and the first African-American woman to assume the position.



The Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties is a cooperative partnership of 11 municipalities in Essex and Union counties which provides sewage conveyance and wastewater treatment for its member communities and several other customer municipalities.

CARL LITTLE KEYNOTES MLK DAY AT MONMOUTH UNIV.

ASBURY PARK—Carl Little, senior at Asbury Park High School, was keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King Day observance at Monmouth University. He spoke at the auditorium on diversity, the topic of his award-winning essay in a competition held last fall by the University's African American Student Union.

OLIVIA SIMMONS REMEMBERED

Olivia Simmons, a Broadway Elementary School librarian who died in the TWA Flight 800 crash in July, was known by colleagues and family members as an avid reader. Her consent to her school in the area language arts was many. On January 17, the school's administration, staff and students proclaimed Olivia J. Simmons Day and renamed the library in her name. Students and colleagues dedicated songs, poems and special readings in her honor.

WANT A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP?

WESTFIELD—The National Commission on Sleep Disorders reported that undisturbed sleep disorders cost the nation \$100 billion annually in accidental injuries, treatment of acute complications, and lost productivity.

If you snore, you are probably having trouble sleeping. If you bed partner or you may sleep in separate bedrooms. As you know, snoring disrupts the sleep of others around you, but what you may not know is that your own sleep is being disrupted and could possibly be sign of a serious sleep disorder called sleep apnea.

Sleep apnea is a common disorder that affects millions of Americans and is often unrecognized. Those with sleep apnea literally stop breathing during the night. Typically the soft tissue in the back of the throat collapses and closes the airway. With each episode, the brain signals those with apnea to arouse from sleep usually with a snore to open the airway. This can occur several, to even 100 times during the night. Consequently, your sleep is disturbed and of poor quality. People with untreated sleep apnea are usually not aware of their bed partner, but report being extremely sleepy during the day and may hear of complaints from others that they snore. The consequences of untreated sleep apnea could lead to high blood pressure, other cardiovascular disease, memory problems, weight gain, impotency, and morning headaches. The good news is that sleep apnea is treatable in most patients and the results can often be seen the very next day after treatment.

On an average, we spend a third of our lives sleeping or trying to sleep! If you or your partner have difficulty sleeping, either from snoring or from listening to your partner snore, or if you just can't sleep, a good night's sleep may only be a sleep study away. Many people suffer needlessly because they are unaware that a problem exists. Once detected and treated, the quality of your life can improve.

Darley Lamont Jenkins

NEWARK, NJ—Rick Jacobs, head soccer coach for St. Benedict's Preparatory School, is proud of his new project. "We had seventy kids which for our first time we were extremely happy with," he said. "Everyone participated, there were soccer balls flying all over the place, and everyone was just having a good time!"

Jacobs heads up the newly formed Brick City Soccer, a project whose mission is to expose young people from the Greater Newark area to the world's most popular sport, and at the same time reinforce or introduce core values they need to survive in today's world. The program had its first clinic January 26 at St. Benedict's Prep, with their second scheduled for Feb. 9 and a Jamboree for March 2.

Many of the state's notables have worked to make this project happen. Among its board of directors are Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Alfred Koeppe, Jr., Executive Vice President External Affairs for PSE&G, Colleen McCloskey, Vice President



Jim Wandling center and participants in Brick City Soccer

External Affairs, Bell Atlantic, Charles Silitano, General Manager of the NY/NJ MetroStars, Tabare Ramos, also of the MetroStars, and Donald Stoltz, Sr. Manager, Corporate Real Estate Continental Airlines.

Soccer has enjoyed a new popularity, thanks to the influx of immigrants to this country bringing their country's game to these shores. The World Cup in 1994 also added to its allure. Jacobs, who was born in Newark, raised in Milburn, and spent the past 21 years working with Newark

children, appreciates the opportunity. "In other countries, the game started in the streets then went into the suburbs," he said. "In America, it hit the suburbs first, and it never really made it to the city. We come at a perfect time for all of this."

Because it invites a mixture of children from all areas of the world, Jacobs also appreciates the chance to reach out to other cultures. "We are going to have a melting pot kind of soccer," he said. "We want to be a club more of inclusion than of exclusion."

Outreach is a major part of Brick City Soccer. The LIFE SKILLS curriculum is a major component of the program, and includes an anti-drug campaign, crisis management programs, referral services, and workshops. "The idea for us is to teach the game, bring the game to the area, and use the game to re-establish honesty, pride, self discipline," Jacobs said. "It is an alternative to the classroom and home."

In the future, Jacobs hopes to extend this program outside Newark. It has been discussed whether or not this could be a pilot program with

been found to reduce infant mortality; hold three town meetings and a focus group session to get community views on what is needed; and recommend the specific actions that should be taken in New Jersey.

The state has a number of programs aimed at reducing the infant mortality rate. They include the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies outreach program in 11 cities, the Health Start program of prenatal and pediatric care for women and young children, the pilot project with Delta Sigma Theta sorority to provide mentors to about 200 black pregnant women statewide, and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Food Program.

most of whom are African-American — will hold town meetings as part of its research. The group, which has six months to report back to Commissioner Len Fishman, will identify strategies that work in New Jersey, emphasizing the more effective use of existing resources.

In 1994, New Jersey's statewide infant mortality rate was 7.7 deaths for every 1,000 live births. However, the rate for blacks was 11 (16.6, which is 2.8 times higher than the rate of 5.9 for whites). The national black infant mortality rate in 1994 was 15.8 New Jersey's goal for the year 2000 is a black infant mortality rate of 11.0.

"Despite everyone's best efforts, the solution to the black infant mortality problem has so far eluded us," said Dr. Leah Ziskin, deputy commissioner for public health services. "We have certainly made progress, but it is clear that we will not meet our public health goal if we continue on our current path."

"This panel brings a wealth of first-hand experience to its work. We are very fortunate to have such a committed and experienced group of people to give us their best thinking on this critical issue," added Jean Marshall, assistant commissioner of the department's Division of Family Health Services.

The panel will identify the key causes of infant mortality; find five programs around the country that have



left: Cynthia Allen right: Tom McCabe (201)643-4800, Ext. 110.

anyone looking for more information can call Rick Jacobs or Tom McCabe, (201)643-4800, Ext. 110.

Panel to examine problem of black infant mortality

TRENTON — The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has assembled a distinguished panel of community members, health experts and social services representatives to find ways to reduce the state's unacceptably high rate of black infant deaths.

The 31-member Blue Ribbon Panel on Black Infant Mortality —

Monmouth County freeholders proclaim Martin Luther King Day



Freeholder Theodore Narozniczek, (third from left) presents County Proclamation for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance to Asbury Park Mayor Carl Williams. Looking on are Howard West, president of Asbury Park/Neptune NAACP Branch, Ralph Allen, president of the Historic Count Street School Restoration Committee, Frank Lomas, president of the Monmouth County Urban League, and Julius Ramsey, president of the Freehold Area NAACP Branch.

FREEHOLD—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders proclaimed January 20, 1997 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Monmouth County at its January meeting.

Freeholder Theodore J. Narozniczek, who sponsored the resolution, read it and presented it to Asbury Park, Mayor Carl Williams. The resolution reads in part, "... We pause today, as Americans have for the past 29 years, to remember the man whose ideals for brotherhood stand as an inspiration to all men and women of peace..." (we) do hereby salute the

memory of Dr. Martin Luther King by proclaiming January 20, 1997 as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Monmouth County."

Mayor Williams, in accepting the resolution, said, "Our Board of Chosen Freeholders are known as a group that gets things done. They don't strive for individual pursuits of glory, rather they seem to strive to take this country we have entrusted to them and have shaped and molded it into one of the most respected counties in the State. We are blessed to have you lead us. Thank you."

Tom Smith measure designates February Black History Month

TRENTON, NJ—Legislation Sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Smith that declares February 1997 as Black History Month in New Jersey was approved by the full Assembly.

"The history of black Americans is the story of extraordinary individuals whose achievements have set examples for citizens of all races," said Smith.

"We can all learn by example of freedom fighters such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman who worked to abolish slavery; scientists and innovators, such as George Washington Carver and Elijah McCoy,

whose inventions and innovations contributed to the scientific progress and industrial success of this nation; and importantly, Martin Luther King, who dedicated his life to create a nation where all people are treated as equals."

"The history of New Jersey has been enriched by the examples of black New Jerseyans, like Paul Robeson, whose intellectual, musical and athletic achievements set the highest standards for people of all races, and William Count Basie, whose musical genius greatly enriched American music," Smith said.

Task force hears concerns

continued from page 1

easier for community members to work outside the community since trends show that most jobs will not be found from within. There was also an introduction to the Internet's One Stop Career Center. Created by the Workforce New Jersey Public Information Network, and geared towards job seekers, students, and employers, visitors to this site can find 20,000 jobs in and out of the state as well as career descriptions, and other tools to put themselves to work. "If there is a job out there, we want our people who are available to work to find it," said Mark Boyo, Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Disability.

There was also a question and answer period when a number took the opportunity to address factors that may have an effect on the workforce program. Sandra Accomando, Executive Director of the Apostles' House in Newark asked about what

work was being done to deal with the lack of affordable housing. "We will have people who will have jobs, and have a transportation system, and have a child care provider but will not have a place to live because they will not be able to afford the housing in Essex County," she said.

Gregory Adkins, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, although lamenting that it is a hard task, tried to give assurance that the issue is being handled as best as possible. He pointed out that there are a number of programs in the community and corporate circles that have alleviated the problem somewhat. "I don't know if it will ever be enough," he said, "but to the extent that we can work with individual organizations in helping to create additional affordable housing, we will work with those organizations."

People are talking...

"We now know that leading a healthy life—eating right, exercising and not smoking—can prevent and in some cases even reverse heart disease."

That's why it is so important for all men and women to begin leading healthier lives no matter what their ages.

Muhlenberg has taken an active role in helping all of our area residents lead healthier lives by providing medical services and educational opportunities to learn more about heart disease and how to stay healthy."

—Howard Sener, M.D., Chief of Cardiology Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center

about Muhlenberg's Healthy Heart Activities

February is National Healthy Heart month and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center offers a number of activities to help you live a healthier life.

February 14

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Visit the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department (through Main Lobby) to learn more about cardiac exercise. Talk to people enrolled in the program and to the health care professionals who develop these individualized exercise plans.

12 noon - 1 p.m.

FREE blood pressure screenings; samples of fat-free pizza, courtesy of Bruno's Pizzeria in South Plainfield; take a FREE healthy-heart cookbook, exercise book and lotto more.

February 20

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Join Muhlenberg's FREE Cardiac Support Group, open to all who have suffered from cardiac problems and their families. Speaker, discussion and group support. February's topic: Stress Management. Pre-registration not necessary. Held in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department (through Main Lobby).

February 22 and 23

8 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 12 pm - 3 pm
National Center CPR 97: Muhlenberg joins with the American Heart Association to offer CPR training in this 2nd annual statewide program. Pre-registration necessary. \$5 per adult. Held in Muhlenberg's School of Nursing. Call (908) 668-2542 to register.

February 26

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
FREE blood pressure screening in Muhlenberg's Outpatient Registration Department in Main Lobby.
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sensory: FREE program in Muhlenberg's Centennial Hall features Robert Fishberg, M.D., "Exercise & Cardiac Disease," and Craig Hook, exercise therapist, "Exercising At Home."

For information about these activities, call (908) 668-2317.

Designated as a Hospital With Heart by the American Heart Association, Muhlenberg's comprehensive program of cardiac services includes complete inpatient and outpatient diagnostic testing, inpatient cardiac care and intermediate cardiac care units, free blood pressure screenings and an active cardiac exercise program.



MUHENBERG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, INC.
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THROUGH FEBRUARY 21

UPPER MONTCLAIR—An exhibit of works by three "Contemporary East Indian Artists" will be on display at Montclair State University, located on the intersection of Valley Road and Normal Ave. For more information, call 201-665-5113.

THROUGH MARCH 23

TRENTON—Photography by Jersey City resident Laurinda Stockwell on view at New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State Street. For more information, call 609-292-6451.

THROUGH MARCH 29

NEW YORK—Exhibit, "Robert Motherwell on Paper: Gesture, Variation, Continuity," at Columbia University's Wallace Art Gallery, Broadway and 116th St. For information, call 212-654-7286.

THROUGH MAY 17

NORTH BRANCH—Laser concerts, "Leisure Light Show," Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, and "Best of Pink Floyd," can be seen at the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College, Route 28 & Lannington Rd. For more information, call 908-231-8805.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25

NEWARK—To celebrate its 3rd Anniversary, the New Jersey Tap Ensemble is opening its doors to the public for the entire month of February each Tuesday. They rehearse in the 4th floor Rehearsal Studio at Newark Symphony Hall, 1020 Broad St. For more information, call Deborah Mitchell, 201-481-0537.

FEBRUARY 5-26

EDISON—Exhibit of art by Charles Gown, Middlesex County College Center, 155 Mill Rd. There will be a reception for him 6-8 pm on Feb. 7. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, 908-906-2566.

FEBRUARY 5-JUNE 8

NEW YORK—Exhibit, "The Streets and Beyond: New York Photographs," at the Museum of the City of New York, 5th Ave. at 103rd St. For more information, call 212-534-1672.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

TRENTON—Songwriter Marvin Hamlisch performs at the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State University), 1000 Morris Ave. For more information, call 609-771-2368.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NEW BRUNSWICK—"On Broadway," starring Leslie Uggams and Ben Vereen. At the State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave. For more information, call 908-246-7409.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

JERSEY CITY—"Women's Sports Day Celebration" in the Multipurpose Room of the Michael Gligan Student Union Building, Jersey City State College, 2039 Kennedy Blvd. Speeches will be held 11 am-12:30 pm, and refreshments will be served 12:30-1 pm. For more information, call 201-201-3189.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

NORTH BRANCH—"Performance, 'The Complete History of America' by the Reduce Shakespeare Co. at Raritan Valley Community College, Rte. 28 and Lannington Rd. For more information, call 908-928-1200.

NEW BRUNSWICK—"New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert, 8 pm at the State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave. For more information, call 1-800-ALLEGRO.

TEANECK—Singles dance at the Marriott at Glenpoint, 100 Frank W. Burr Blvd., Sponsored by SingleFACES. For more information, call 908-462-2406.

SEA BRIGHT—Singles dance at McLoone's Rum Runner, 816 Ocean Ave. Sponsored by SingleFACES. For more information, call 908-462-2406.

ELIZABETH—Theater, "For Tiger Lillies Out of Season" by Dr. Andrea Green, Union County College, Elizabeth Campus, 12 W. Jersey St. 8 pm. Students \$5. For more information, call 908-965-6000.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

PLAINFIELD—Lee Fields, Traffic, Jazz, and Young & Company perform at Black United Fund Community Center, 403 W. 7th St. For more information, call Steve or Elmer, 908-754-3147.

ISELIN—The Community Oriented Fire Fighters for Ethnic Equality are holding their 25th Anniversary Awards Dinner & Valentine's Affair at the Sheraton Woodbridge Plaza Hotel, 511 Rt. 1 So. For more information, call 908-561-2668.

PLAINFIELD—Workshop, "Basic Public Relations," Sponsored by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs and presented by Pro Bono, Inc. at Plainfield Public Library, Park Ave. & W. 8th St. 8:30-Noon. For more information, call 908-566-2656, TDD 1-800-852-7889.

Fax your events to:
City News
908-753-1036

Martin Luther King, Jr. Meets Malcolm X at Crossroads

Actors Marcus Naylor, Cedric Turner and Barry Lorne Smith will star in the Crossroads Theatre production of "The Meeting" January 19 to February 16 at the theatre located at 7 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The play, which is being produced in observance of Black History Month and written by playwright Jeff Setston, is about a meeting between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in a Harlem hotel room in 1965. Absolut Vodka is an official sponsor of the production.

Directed by Harold Scott, "The Meeting" opens in 1965, the same day that Malcolm X's house was firebombed and exactly one week before he was assassinated.

Audience members travel



Actors Marcus Naylor, as Malcolm X and Cedric Turner, as Dr. King star in the Crossroads Theatre production of "The Meeting."

through time to see what may have occurred between the two leaders at an important turning point in history.

For more information regarding single tickets, call Crossroads box office at (908) 249-5560.

Arsenio Hall and Patti LaBelle to host the NAACP 28th Image Awards



Left to right: Patti LaBelle, Denzel Washington, Arsenio Hall

LOS ANGELES—NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman, Myrtle Evers-Williams, has announced that Arsenio Hall and Patti LaBelle will host the NAACP 28th Image Awards to be taped on February 8, 1997, at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

Actor Denzel Washington will accept the *Entertainer of the Year Award*. "Denzel Washington has had a career that we are proud to honor. He has been relentless in portraying African Americans on screen in an arena that makes the NAACP proud. Mufumbo, President/CEO.

"We are pleased that Fox Broadcasting will host the NAACP 28th Image Awards on Thursday, February 27, at 8:00 PM," says Image Awards Chairman, Joseph E. Madison, who, along with Maxine Waters and Dick Gregory is a recipient of this year's Chairman's Award. "This is our second year, and we're looking forward to a long standing relationship," adds Madison.

For further information, please contact: Kenneth R. Reynolds, 213-938-2364.

Winners at the 24th Annual American Music Awards

POP-ROCK ARTIST: Eric Clapton

FEMALE ARTIST: Alanis Morissette

BAND, DUO OR GROUP: Hootie & the Blowfish

ALBUM: "Jagged Little Pill," Alanis Morissette

NEW ARTIST: Jewel

SOUL-RHYTHM & BLUES ARTIST: Keith Sweat

MALE ARTIST: Toni Braxton

BAND, DUO OR GROUP: New Edition

ALBUM: "Secrets," Toni Braxton

NEW ARTIST: D'Angelo

COUNTRY ARTIST: Whitney Houston.

MALE ARTIST: Garth Brooks

FEMALE ARTIST: Shania Twain

BAND, DUO OR GROUP: Brooks & Dunn

ALBUM: "Blue Clear Sky," George Strait

NEW ARTIST: Leona Rimes

HEAVY METAL/HARD ROCK ARTIST: Metallica

RAP-HIP HOP ARTIST: Tupac

ALTERNATIVE MUSIC ARTIST: Smashing Pumpkins

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LIVINGSTON:

MADISON:

MILBURN:

NAVESINK:

PLAINFIELD:

SHORT HILLS:

SPRINGFIELD:

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS:

TOMES RIVER:

TOMES RIVER:

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TOMES RIVER:

Black History Calendar

Continued from page 2

JERSEY CITY—Jhu Weat, an education and community activist, and Kabili Tayari, president of the Jersey City Board of Education, will speak on "Education Politics, and Community Control," 11 am at Jersey City State College, 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For more information, call 201-200-3524.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

EDISON—Major Scorpion, Reggae performance 12 noon, Middlesex County College Center Lounge, 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

Television program, "This House of Power" will air on OYSESS (formerly the Faith & Values Channel) at 10 pm, and will repeat at 11 pm. It takes an in-depth look at the history and influence of the African-American church.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK—Film, "Historical Perspectives on African-American Women," 1 and 6 pm at the Middlesex County College New Brunswick Center, 317 George St. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

Television program, "Tuskegee: Airmen Reunion" will air on OYSESS (formerly the Faith & Values Channel) at 12 pm. The show reunites surviving members of the legendary pilots as they unveil a collection of a painting depicting their exploits.

NEW YORK—Author Harlan Dalton (Racial Healing: Confronting the Fear Between Blacks & Whites) will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble. For more information, call 212-786-0992.

FEBRUARY 13-16

PHILADELPHIA—PECO Energy Jazz Festival will be under the stars, the proceeds of which will go to support the African-American Historical Cultural Museum (AAHCM). Four headline concerts and more than 100 jazz events are planned throughout the festival. For more information, call (800) 611-5960.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

EDISON—Rapper/Political activist Sister Souljah will be giving a keynote address at Middlesex County College's Performing Arts Center, College Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

NEW YORK—Author Patricia Reid-Merritt (Sister Power: How Phenomenal Black Women Are Rising to the

Top) will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble. For more information, call 212-786-0992.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PLAINFIELD—Black Child Expo will be held at the Black United Fund Community Center (formerly Grant Avenue Community Center). Special invited guests include motivational speaker Les Brown and rapper/political activist Sister Souljah. For more information, call (908) 769-7975.

NEWARK—Spirit Ensemble, 2 pm at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 40 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 596-6550. For TTY calls, (201) 596-6355.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NEW YORK—The American Place Theatre begins its 1997 season with "Storewale Jackson's House," a new play performed by Norman Lear, directed by Jamie Richards, and starring Lisa Louise Langford. The play will begin performances on Feb. 5, with its opening night this evening at 7 pm. The Theatre is located at 111 W. 46th St. For more information, call the Box Office at (212) 940-3074.

ENGLEWOOD—Ladymeth Black Magistrate performs at John Harms Theater, 30 N. Van Brunt St., 3 pm. For tickets (201) 567-3600.

NEWARK—Concert, "An Evening With The Strimelles," 1 and 3 pm at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 40 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 596-6550. For TTY calls, (201) 596-6355.

PLAINFIELD—Jubilate Choir of Irvington will perform at Cross of Life Church, 1240 East Seventh St. For more information, call Rev. Carol A. Lindsey (908) 755-8786.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

EDISON—"Glory," a motion picture about the all-black Civil War regiment, the Massachusetts 54th, will be shown 12 noon, 3, and 6 pm at the Middlesex County College College Center Lounge, 155 Mill Rd. It stars Morgan Freeman, and Denzel Washington, who with this performance, became only the fourth African-American to win a major Academy Award. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

JERSEY CITY—A program on "African-American Freedom Fighters," 10:00 am at Jersey City State College, 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For more information, call 201-200-3524.

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Feb. 8th - Delta Sigma Theta's College of Black Women's Prayer and the Rev. Charles E. Evers

Call the Church for a complete schedule of events.

We are located across from the Army—just east of Leland Ave. Parking is in the rear—Please join us! The Rev. Carol A. Lindsey, Pastor

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The Baptists

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Newark, NJ (201) 242-8012 (201) 923-4000

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